

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W
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R 281738Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3403

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS PARIS 21968

FOR CU/ARTS:CORIDEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: "EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH"

1. WILSON/GLASS OPERA "EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH" OPENED JULY 25 AT AVIGNON FESTIVAL TO FULL HOUSE AND SPIRTED OVATIONS. PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES, IMAGINATIVE STAGING AND HYPNOTIC MUSIC MADE OVERALL EFFECT OF ENIGMATIC FIVE-HOUR PRODUCTION A POWERFUL ONE; EVOKING GAMUT OF CRITICAL RESPONSES IN MARSEILLE AND PARIS DAILIES.

2. REVIEWS IN TWO MARSEILLE DAILIES ("LE MERIDIONAL" AND "LE PROVENCAL") POSITIVE TERMING OPERA "REMARKABLE" AND CAREFULLY DETAILED TRIP TO AN INHUMAN WORLD WHERE "MAN HAS BEEN DOMESTICATED BY MACHINE." ONLY NEGATIVE NOTE WAS COMMENT ON EXCESSIVE LENGTH. OF PARIS DAILIES, "LE MONDE" AND "LE FIGARO" GAVE HIGH MARKS, "QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS" HAD MIXED REVIEWS, AND "FRANCE SOIR" AND "AURORE" PANNED IT. SELECTED QUOTES FOLLOW AND CLIPPINGS WILL BE FORWARDED.

3. LE FIGARO: "EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH: FIVE HOURS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THEATER WHICH COVERS EIGHTY YEARS IN THE LIFE OF A

GENIUS BUT GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF LASTING TEN MINUTES..
WILSON PLAYS WITH TIME, IS AN ALCHEMIST WITH IMAGES,
SPACE AND SOUND, EVOKING STRANGE AND PROFOUND
IMPRESSIONS. TO SPEAK OF THE MAGIC IS SIMPLE, TO
EXPLAIN IT IS ANOTHER THING... LITTLE BY LITTLE THE
SPECTATOR IS TORN FROM THE RHYTHM OF OUR WORK AND IS
PROJECTED INTO A UNIVERSE WHICH ESCAPES NATURAL PHYSICAL
LAWS. THE EXPERIENCE IS FASCINATING."
LE MONDE:"PRODIGIOUS PLASTICIAN OF TIME, NULLIFIER OF
LENGTH, STAGER OF STATIC VOYAGES, AND PAINTER OF POETRY,
BOB WILSON HAS AGAIN MEASURED UP TO THE SIZE OF HIS
LEGEND... NEVER BEFORE HAS BOB WILSON CONSTRUCTED... A
STRUCTURE AS COMPLEX AND AS DENUDED OF SCENES.
"EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH" MINGLES SCIENCE AND POETRY IN
A PENDULUM MOVEMENT WHICH STRIKES, ENVELOPES, AND
ALTOGETHER ATTRACTS THE GAZE, THE UNDERSTANDING, ALL
OF THE FACULTIES OF PERCEPTION AND SENSITIVITY."
FRANCE SOIR: "SO THAT ONE MAKES NO MISTAKE, EINSTEIN
ON THE BEACH" ISN'T A SEARCHING OR AVANT-GARDE WORK...
IT IS OFFICIAL ART COPRODUCED BY THE FESTIVAL OF
AUTUMN, THE FESTIVAL OF AVIGNON, THE BIENNALE OF
VENICE, THE REGION OF LOMBARDY, AND THE BYRD FOUNDATION.
THAT IS A LOT FOR NOT MUCH... OFFICIAL ART IS ALWAYS
ABOMINABLE."
L'AURE: "ONE IS ALMOST SURPRISED THAT THE TWO
ASSOCIATES WERE CONTENT TO LIMIT THE LENGTH OF THE
WORK TO FIVE HOURS, WHEN ONE DOES NOT SEE WHY IT WAS
SO RESTRICTED; IN THE ABSENCE OF HAVING RESOLVED THE
PROBLEM OF PERPETUAL MOTION, WILSON CHOSE THE SOLUTION
OF PERPETUAL IMMOBILITY."

4. USIS OFFICER ATTENDED OPENING PERFORMANCE AND
PREDICTS THAT WORK WILL BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED
BY WILSON FANS, THEATER BUFFS, AND YOUNG INTELLECTUAL
AUDIENCES. EXCESSIVE LENGTH, REPETITION, AND ESOTERIC
TREATMENT OF SUBJECT WILL OVERWHELM MANY. NEVERTHELESS,
THE PROFESSIONALISM AND QUALITY OF ALL COMPONENTS OF
THE PRODUCTION MAKE IT A STRONG--IF NOT UNIVERSALLY
APPEALING--CONTRIBUTION TO U.S. AVANT-GARDE THEATER
REPERTOIRE.

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GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUSIC, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS21968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760292-0563
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760713/aaaaaljv.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH
TAGS: SCUL, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006